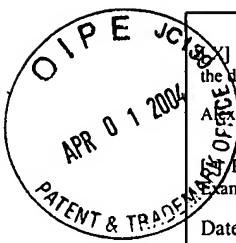


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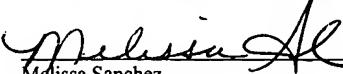
**Certificate of Mailing/Transmission (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)):**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date indicated below in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d), I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being sent via facsimile on the date indicated below to the attention of Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ at Facsimile No \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

Dated: March 29, 2004

Name of Person Certifying:

Printed Name: 

Melissa Sanchez

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Robert Stobie ) Group Art Unit: 3738

)

Application No.: 10/705,587 )

)

10 Filing Date: November 10, 2003 ) Examiner: Unknown

)

For: HEART VALVE HOLDER AND METHOD FOR )  
RESISTING SUTURE LOOPING )

)

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

20 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following changes.

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Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.